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FILED

AUG 25 2009

8-25-2009

JUDGE JOHN W. DARRAH

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

)

No. 08 CR 828-01

VS.

)

Judge John W. Darrah

)

JUAN JOHNSON

)

PLEA AGREEMENT

1. This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, and defendant JUAN JOHNSON, and his attorney, DANIEL J. STOHR, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

Charge in This Case

2. The superseding indictment in this case charges defendant with knowingly and intentionally distributing a controlled substance, namely, fifty grams or more of mixtures and substances containing cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) (Count One), and knowingly and intentionally using a communication facility, namely a telephone, in committing and in causing and facilitating the commission of a felony violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), namely, distribution of a controlled substance, namely cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b) (Count Two).

3. Defendant has read the charges against him contained in the superseding indictment, and those charges have been fully explained to him by his attorney.

4. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crimes with which he has been charged.

Charge to Which Defendant is Pleading Guilty

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to Count Two of the superseding indictment. Count Two charges defendant with knowingly and intentionally using a communication facility, namely a telephone, in committing and in causing and facilitating the commission of a felony violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), namely, distribution of a controlled substance, namely cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b).

Factual Basis

6. Defendant will plead guilty because he is in fact guilty of the charge contained in Count Two of the superseding indictment. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt:

On or about August 10, 2007, at approximately 3:24 p.m., at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere, defendant knowingly and intentionally used a communication facility, namely, a telephone, in committing and in causing and facilitating the commission of a felony violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), namely, distribution of a controlled substance, namely, cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b).

More specifically, on August 3, 2007, JOHNSON met with a person who, unbeknownst to JOHNSON, was a cooperating witness ("CW") for the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). CW told JOHNSON that he/she had some people who wanted to purchase crack cocaine, but that CW's usual supplier had moved away from town. CW added that he/she remembered that JOHNSON had offered to "point" CW "in the right direction." JOHNSON asked how much crack cocaine CW wanted to purchase, and CW responded, "I don't know, maybe four and a split at the most, maybe two and a half ounces." JOHNSON responded by asking CW whether CW and co-defendant Harold Martinez were "cool." CW replied that they were cool, but that CW did not have MARTINEZ's number. JOHNSON told CW that he would put Martinez and CW together when CW was ready to purchase the crack cocaine. JOHNSON declined to take a "finder's fee" from CW because they would help each other out.

On August 9, 2007, CW called and told JOHNSON that he/she would be "touching down tomorrow," meaning that CW would have the money and wanted to know if they could do the crack cocaine transaction. JOHNSON responded that he would try to set something up because JOHNSON was having a meeting with Martinez in an hour and a half. CW asked JOHNSON to figure out a price for the crack cocaine and then call CW back.

On August 10, 2007, at approximately 3:24 p.m., JOHNSON called Martinez to arrange to meeting to discuss the narcotics transaction. During the call, MARINTEZ told JOHNSON to meet him at the barbershop. CW met JOHNSON at JOHNSON's house and

got into JOHNSON's car. JOHNSON and CW drove to 2552 W. Division Avenue in Chicago, where they parked and waited for Martinez to arrive. While they were waiting, JOHNSON then asked CW whether he/she wanted to buy it "raw," referring to powder cocaine. CW responded that he/she wanted "rock," referring to crack cocaine.

JOHNSON received a telephone call from Martinez, and after they determined that JOHNSON was waiting for Martinez outside of the wrong barbershop, Martinez agreed to come over to where JOHNSON and CW were waiting. Martinez drove up a short time later, and walked up to JOHNSON's car. JOHNSON communicated to Martinez how much crack cocaine CW wanted to buy by typing the amount into JOHNSON's cellphone and showing it to Martinez, who told JOHNSON and CW that it would cost them \$1,500 for the crack cocaine. When CW told them that he/she had the money, Martinez said he had to go cook the cocaine into crack cocaine. JOHNSON told CW and Martinez to "exchange numbers" so that JOHNSON did not have to "do this no more."

JOHNSON acknowledges that later in the day on August 10, 2007, CW and Martinez met and completed the crack cocaine transaction in Chicago, Illinois. Martinez handed CW 62.3 grams of crack cocaine, and in exchange, CW handed \$1,500 to Martinez.

Maximum Statutory Penalties

7. Defendant understands that the charge to which he is pleading guilty carries the following statutory penalties:

a. A maximum sentence of 4 years' imprisonment. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than one year.

b. In accord with Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on the charge to which he has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty imposed.

Sentencing Guidelines Calculations

8. Defendant understands that in imposing sentence the Court will be guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory, but that the Court must consider the Guidelines in determining a reasonable sentence.

9. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2008 Guidelines Manual.

b. Offense Level Calculations.

i. Pursuant to Guideline §2D1.6, the base offense level for the offense of conviction is the offense level applicable to the underlying offense, namely the distribution of a controlled substance.

ii. The base offense level for the underlying offense is 30, pursuant to Guideline §§2D1.1(a)(3) and(c)(5), because the amount of crack cocaine involved in the underlying offense was at least 50 grams, but less than 150 grams of cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine.

iii. The parties agree that a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate pursuant to §3B1.2(b) because the defendant was a minor participant in the criminal activity.

iv. Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct. If the government does not receive additional evidence in conflict with this provision, and if defendant continues to accept responsibility for his actions within the meaning of Guideline §3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the Probation Office with all requested financial information relevant to his ability to satisfy any fine that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate.

v. In accord with Guideline §3E1.1(b), defendant has timely notified the government of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the

government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently. Therefore, as provided by Guideline §3E1.1(b), if the Court determines the offense level to be 16 or greater prior to determining that defendant is entitled to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level.

vi. Based on the evidence now known to the government, the parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, that Guideline §5C1.2 is applicable, and therefore, the offense level shall be reduced by two levels, pursuant to Guideline §2D1.1(b)(11).

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts now known to the government, defendant's criminal history points equal zero and defendant's criminal history category is I.

d. **Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.** Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, the anticipated offense level is 23, which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory Sentencing Guidelines range of 46 to 57 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release, fine, and restitution the Court may impose. However, pursuant to Guideline § 5G1.1(c)(1), the sentence may not be greater than the statutorily authorized maximum sentence of 48 months.

e. Defendant and his attorney and the government acknowledge that the above Guideline calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional Guideline provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the Court's determinations govern the final Guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

f. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this plea agreement is not governed by Fed.R.Crim.P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting any of the Sentencing Guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the Guidelines. The validity of this Plea Agreement will not be affected by such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Plea Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

Agreements Relating to Sentencing

10. Each party is free to recommend whatever sentence it deems appropriate.

11. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Plea Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

12. The parties further agree, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(d), that the sentence to be imposed by the Court shall include, as a condition of any term of supervised release or probation imposed in this case, a requirement that defendant repay the United States \$1,500 as compensation for government funds that defendant received during the investigation of the case.

13. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision

14. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charge against him, and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to the issue of sentencing.

15. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of his financial circumstances, including his recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Guideline §3E1.1 and enhancement of his sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline §3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

16. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with his obligations to pay a fine during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Plea Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty

Nature of Plea Agreement

17. This Plea Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in case 08 CR 828-01.

18. This Plea Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

Waiver of Rights

19. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charge against him, and if he does, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. Defendant has a right to a jury trial. However, in order that the trial be

conducted by the judge sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and his attorney would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict him unless, after hearing all the evidence and considering each count separately, it was persuaded of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The jury would have to agree unanimously before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence and considering each count separately, whether or not the judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant. Defendant would

be able to confront those government witnesses and his attorney would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in his own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that he could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from his refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, he could testify in his own behalf.

b. **Waiver of appellate and collateral rights.** Defendant further understands he is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if he had exercised his right to trial. Defendant is aware that Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, afford a defendant the right to appeal his conviction and the sentence imposed. Acknowledging this, defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal his conviction, any pre-trial rulings by the Court, and any part of the sentence (or the manner in which that sentence was determined), including any term of imprisonment and fine within the maximums provided by law, and including any order of restitution or forfeiture, in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this Plea Agreement. In addition, defendant also waives his right to challenge his conviction and sentence, and the manner in which the sentence was determined, and (in any case in which

the term of imprisonment and fine are within the maximums provided by statute) his attorney's alleged failure or refusal to file a notice of appeal, in any collateral attack or future challenge, including but not limited to a motion brought under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255. The waiver in this paragraph does not apply to a claim of involuntariness, or ineffective assistance of counsel, which relates directly to this waiver or to its negotiation, nor does it prohibit defendant from seeking a reduction of sentence based directly on a change in the law that is applicable to defendant and that, prior to the filing of defendant's request for relief, has been expressly made retroactive by an Act of Congress, the Supreme Court, or the United States Sentencing Commission.

c. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs Defendant's attorney has explained those rights to him, and the consequences of his waiver of those rights.

Other Terms

20. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

Conclusion

21. Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record and may be disclosed to any person.

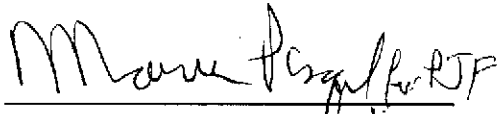
22. Defendant understands that his compliance with each part of this Plea Agreement extends throughout the period of his sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event he violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute defendant, any prosecutions that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.


23. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Plea Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound thereto.


24. Defendant and his attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Plea Agreement to cause defendant to plead guilty.


25. Defendant acknowledges that he has read this Plea Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with his attorney. Defendant further acknowledges that he understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: 8-25-09


PATRICK J. FITZGERALD
United States Attorney


RONALD DEWALD
Assistant U.S. Attorney


JUAN JOHNSON
Defendant


DANIEL J. STOHR
Attorney for Defendant